

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method comprising:

5 entering a first set of numeric values in a first plurality of number fields, wherein the first plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on a display screen;

10 entering a first set of one or more mathematical operators in a first set of one or more operation fields, wherein the first set of operation fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen;

15 automatically calculating a first result by applying the first set of mathematical operators to the first set of numeric values;

20 displaying the first result on the display screen;

25 entering a second set of numeric values in a second plurality of number fields, wherein the second plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen in a different column than the first set of numeric values;

30 entering a second set of one or more mathematical operators in a second set of one or more operation fields, wherein the second set of operation fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen in a different column than the first set of mathematical operators;

35 automatically calculating a second result by applying the second set of mathematical operators to the second set of numeric values; and

40 displaying the second result on the display screen.

2. The method of claim 1,

45 wherein the displaying the first result on the display screen comprises displaying the first result in a same column as the first set of numeric values; and

50 wherein the displaying the second result on the display screen comprises displaying the second result in a same column as the second set of numeric values.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
entering a first character string which is associated with one of the first set of numeric values; and  
displaying the first character string in a comment field adjacent to the one of the  
5 first set of numeric values.

4. The method of claim 1,  
wherein the entering the first set of numeric values comprises:  
entering a first numeric value in a number field in an upper line;  
10 automatically shifting an entry point to a number field in a lower line; and  
entering a next numeric value in the number field in the lower line.

5. The method of claim 1,  
wherein the first set of numeric values comprises at least one formula.  
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6. The method of claim 1,  
wherein the first set of numeric values comprises at least one reference to another  
numeric value in a field.

20 7. The method of claim 1,  
wherein the entering the first set of numeric values in the first plurality of number  
fields comprises entering character strings in the first plurality of number fields.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
25 determining a first set of output character strings based on the first set of numeric  
values; and  
displaying the first set of output character strings in the first set of number fields.

9. The method of claim 1,  
wherein the first set of number fields and the first set of operation fields are displayed in adjacent columns having a first single column label; and  
wherein the second set of number fields and the second set of operation fields are  
5 displayed in adjacent columns having a second single column label.

10. The method of claim 9,  
wherein a first field label is displayed for the first set of operation fields;  
wherein a second field label is displayed for the first set of number fields;  
10 wherein a third field label is displayed for the second set of operation fields; and  
wherein a fourth field label is displayed for the second set of number fields.

11. A system comprising:  
a CPU;  
15 a display screen coupled to the CPU;  
a memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the memory stores program instructions which are executable by the CPU to:  
display a window on the display screen, wherein the window comprises a plurality of fields arranged in a matrix having a plurality of rows and a plurality of  
20 columns;  
receive user input into the memory, wherein the user input comprises a first and second set of input numeric values and a first and second set of mathematical operators;  
determine a first and second set of output numeric values based  
25 respectively on the first and second set of input numeric values;  
display the first set of mathematical operators vertically in a first set of one or more operation fields in a first column;

display the first set of output numeric values vertically in a first plurality of number fields in the first column;

display the second set of mathematical operators vertically in a second set of one or more operation fields in a second column;

5 display the second set of output numeric values vertically in a second plurality of number fields in the second column;

automatically calculate a first result by applying the first set of mathematical operators to the first set of input numeric values;

10 automatically calculate a second result by applying the second set of mathematical operators to the second set of input numeric values; and

display the first result and the second result on the display screen.

12. The system of claim 11,

wherein the first result is displayed in the first column; and

15 wherein the second result is displayed in the second column.

13. The system of claim 11,

wherein the user input further comprises a first character string which is associated with one of the first set of input numeric values; and

20 wherein the program instructions are executable by the CPU to display the first character string in a comment field in the first column.

14. The system of claim 11,

wherein the user input further comprises a second character string which is 25 associated with one of the second set of input numeric values; and

wherein the program instructions are executable by the CPU to display the second character string in a comment field in the second column.

15. The system of claim 11,  
wherein in receiving user input into the memory, the program instructions are further executable to:

5 receive a first input numeric value in a number field in an upper line;  
automatically shift an entry point to a number field in a lower line; and  
receive a next input numeric value in the number field in the lower line.

16. The system of claim 11,  
wherein the first set of input numeric values comprises at least one formula.

10 17. The system of claim 11,  
wherein the first set of input numeric values comprises at least one reference to another numeric value in a field.

15 18. A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a computer to implement:

receiving into a memory a first set of numeric values in a first plurality of number fields, wherein the first plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on a display screen;

20 receiving into the memory a first set of one or more mathematical operators in a first set of one or more operation fields, wherein the first set of operation fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen;

automatically calculating a first result by applying the first set of mathematical operators to the first set of numeric values;

25 displaying the first result on the display screen;  
receiving into the memory a second set of numeric values in a second plurality of number fields, wherein the second plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen in a different column than the first set of numeric values;

receiving into the memory a second set of one or more mathematical operators in a second set of one or more operation fields, wherein the second set of operation fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen in a different column than the first set of mathematical operators;

5        automatically calculating a second result by applying the second set of mathematical operators to the second set of numeric values; and

      displaying the second result on the display screen.

19.      The carrier medium of claim 18,

10        wherein the displaying the first result on the display screen comprises displaying the first result in a same column as the first set of numeric values; and

      wherein the displaying the second result on the display screen comprises displaying the second result in a same column as the second set of numeric values.

15    20.      The carrier medium of claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

      receiving into the memory a first character string which is associated with one of the first set of numeric values; and

      displaying the first character string in a comment field adjacent to the one of the

20        first set of numeric values.

21.      The carrier medium of claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

      receiving into the memory a second character string which is associated with one of the second set of numeric values; and

      displaying the second character string in a comment field adjacent to the number field associated with the one of the second set of numeric values.

22. The carrier medium of claim 18,  
wherein the receiving into the memory the first set of numeric values comprises:  
receiving into the memory a first numeric value in a number field in an  
upper line;

5 automatically shifting an entry point to a number field in a lower line; and  
receiving into the memory a next numeric value in the number field in the  
lower line.

23. The carrier medium of claim 18,

10 wherein the first set of numeric values comprises at least one formula.

24. The carrier medium of claim 18,

wherein the first set of numeric values comprises at least one reference to another  
numeric value in a field.

15 25. The carrier medium of claim 18,  
wherein the receiving into the memory the first set of numeric values in the first  
plurality of number fields comprises receiving into the memory character strings in the  
first plurality of number fields; and  
20 wherein the receiving into the memory the second set of numeric values in the  
second plurality of number fields comprises receiving into the memory character strings  
in the second plurality of number fields.

25 26. The carrier medium of claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further  
executable by the computer to implement:

determining a first set of output character strings based on the first set of numeric  
values;  
displaying the first set of output character strings in the first set of number fields;

determining a second set of output character strings based on the second set of numeric values; and

displaying the second set of output character strings in the second set of number fields.

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27. The carrier medium of claim 18,

wherein the first set of number fields and the first set of operation fields are displayed in adjacent columns having a first single column label; and

10 wherein the second set of number fields and the second set of operation fields are displayed in adjacent columns having a second single column label.

28. The carrier medium of claim 27,

wherein a first field label is displayed for the first set of operation fields;

wherein a second field label is displayed for the first set of number fields;

15 wherein a third field label is displayed for the second set of operation fields; and  
wherein a fourth field label is displayed for the second set of number fields.